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National Agricultural Statistics Service



Press Release

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USDA TO SURVEY CATTLE, MILK, SHEEP, AND GOAT PRODUCERS IN JANUARY

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be relying on producers to help gather production information for cattle, milk, sheep, and goats.

"The January Cattle Report provides Illinois producers the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of data on cattle" said Brad Schwab, director of the Illinois Field Office of USDA NASS. "The Sheep and Goat Report is used to measure and report current conditions and trends in the U.S. sheep and goat industry."

Producers selected for these reports will have the option of responding via telephone, mail, internet, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

"When producers choose to respond, they are providing an important service to U.S. agriculture," Schwab said. "The information collected from the cattle report is a critical decision-making tool for providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production. The data collected on sheep and goat inventory and production allows USDA and the industry to be more responsive to the American and international public, increase consumer understanding and awareness, and establish an appreciation for the benefits of U.S. sheep and goats and their products."

Milk production data will be available on January 18, 2008. Information collected for cattle, sheep, and goats will be published in NASS's semi-annual *Cattle* report and NASS's *Sheep and Goats* report, scheduled for release on February 1, 2008. In addition, NASS's *Farms, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations* report, also published in February, will include data on the number of operations with cattle and calves, and percent of inventory by herd size.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.

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